

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A composition comprising a combination of two or more GBS antigens, wherein said combination includes GBS 80 or a fragment thereof or a polypeptide sequence having 50% or greater sequence identity thereto.

2. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said combination of GBS antigens demonstrates improved immunogenicity as measured by the Active Maternal Immunization Assay, wherein said Active Maternal Immunization Assay measures serum titers of female mice during an immunization schedule and percent survival rate of pups after challenge.

3. (original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the percent survival rate of challenged pups is at least 2 percentage points higher than the percent survival rate of challenged pups from female mice immunized with a single non-GBS 80 antigen .

4. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said combination consists of two GBS antigens.

5. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said combination consists of three GBS antigens.

6. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said combination consists of four GBS antigens.

7. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein said combination consists of five GBS antigens.

8. (currently amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein GBS 80 comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~SEQ ID NO:2~~ or an immunogenic fragment thereof.

9. (original) The composition of claim 1, wherein the fragment of GBS 80 comprises the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.

10. (original) The composition of claim 1, said combination consisting of two to thirteen GBS antigens selected from the group consisting of GBS 80, GBS 91, GBS 104, GBS 184, GBS 276, GBS 305, GBS 322, GBS 330, GBS 338, GBS 361, GBS 404, GBS 690, and GBS 691.

11. (original) The composition of claim 1, said combination including GBS 80, GBS 104 and GBS 322.

12. (original) The composition of claim 1, said combination including GBS 80, GBS 104, GBS 276 and GBS 322.

13. (original) The combination of claim 1 wherein said combination comprises at least one of GBS 91, GBS 104, GBS 184, GBS 276, GBS 305, GBS 322, GBS 330, GBS 338, GBS 361, GBS 404, GBS 690, or GBS 691.

14. (original) A fusion protein comprising a portion of a GBS 80 antigen and a portion of at least one GBS antigen.

15. (original) The fusion protein of claim 14 wherein said at least one GBS antigen is selected from the group consisting of GBS 91, GBS 104, GBS 184, GBS 276, GBS 305, GBS 322, GBS 330, GBS 338, GBS 361, GBS 404, GBS 690, or GBS 691.

16. (original) The fusion protein of claim 15 wherein said at least one GBS antigen is GBS 322.

17. (original) The fusion protein of claim 16 consisting essentially of a GBS 80 antigen and a GBS 322 antigen.

18. (original) A method for the therapeutic or prophylactic treatment of GBS infection in an animal susceptible to GBS infection comprising administering to said animal a therapeutic or prophylactic amount of the composition of claim 1.

19. (original) A method for the manufacture of a medicament for raising an immune response against GBS comprising combining a GBS 80 antigen or fragment thereof with at least one GBS polypeptide antigen.

20. (original) The method of claim 19 wherein said at least one GBS polypeptide antigen comprises a polypeptide or fragment thereof selected from the antigen group consisting of GBS 91, GBS 104, GBS 184, GBS 276, GBS 305, GBS 322, GBS 330, GBS 338, GBS 361, GBS 404, GBS 690, and GBS 691.

21. (canceled)